

What is claimed is:

1. An air-conditioning unit comprising:

an inlet for drawing in air;

a heat exchanger for exchanging heat between air drawn in from said inlet and a refrigerant;

a diffuser for discharging air which has been heat-exchanged by said heat exchanger;

an airflow device for blowing air from said diffuser;

an enzyme carrier arranged in an internal space through which said air flows, and which supports an allergen deactivation enzyme; and

an enzyme activation device which creates an atmosphere for activating the supported said allergen deactivation enzyme.

2. An air-conditioning unit according to claim 1, having an internal air retaining device which retains air flow within said internal space.

3. An air-conditioning unit according to claim 2, wherein said internal air retaining device is an open/close device which closes a part or all of openings communicating with said internal space, to keep said internal space in a semi-enclosed or fully enclosed condition.

4. An air-conditioning unit according to claim 3, wherein said internal space is kept in the enclosed condition, and said airflow device is operated to agitate the air which constitutes an atmosphere for activating said allergen deactivation enzyme in said enclosed internal space.

5. An air-conditioning unit according to claim 1, wherein said enzyme activation device heats and evaporates condensed water generated by the cooling operation of said heat exchanger, by means of a heating operation of said heat exchanger which is performed after said cooling operation.

6. An air-conditioning unit according to claim 1, wherein

said enzyme activation device heats and evaporates the condensed water generated by the cooling operation of said heat exchanger, and stored on a drain pan, by means of a heating device.

7. An air-conditioning unit according to claim 5, wherein after said internal space has been maintained at a high temperature and high humidity by said enzyme activation device, a degradation-prevention operation is performed to remove moisture from said enzyme carrier.

8. An air-conditioning unit according to claim 1, wherein prior to activating said allergen deactivation enzyme of said enzyme carrier, an allergen collection operation is performed which draws in air to said internal space and flows this to pass through said enzyme carrier.

9. An air-conditioning apparatus comprising;  
an air-conditioning unit according to any one of claim 1

through claim 8,

a compressor for compressing a refrigerant,

an external heat exchanger for performing heat exchange between the refrigerant compressed by said compressor and air,

and

refrigerant piping for connecting between said air-conditioning unit, said compressor, and said external heat exchanger, and circulating refrigerant between said air-conditioning unit, said compressor, and said external heat exchanger.